

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

No. C 06-05361 JSW

CHARLES MUHAMMAD,

Plaintiff,

v.

2 NBC, et al.

Defendants.

**ORDER DENYING  
APPLICATION FOR  
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING  
ORDER, DENYING WITHOUT  
PREJUDICE APPLICATION TO  
PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*,  
AND DISMISSING WITH LEAVE  
TO AMEND**

This matter comes before the Court upon consideration of the application for a temporary restraining order and an application to proceed *in forma pauperis* filed by Plaintiff Charles Muhammad. Defendants have not yet been served, however, it appears that Plaintiff seeks additional time to give them notice of these proceedings. (*See* Application for Temporary Restraining Order at 5.)

Plaintiff's application for a temporary restraining order is a form document that is entitled "Request for Restraining order, and Order of Protection." In that application, Plaintiff states that he seeks relief from "2 N.B.C, et al."<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff asks for orders requiring Defendants to "not to do the following things to" to him: "harass, attack, strike, threaten, assault ... hit, follow, stalk, molest, destroy, personal property, disturb the peace, keep under surveillance, or block movements." He also asks that "all program directors be charged with criminal charges if any staff cause fear or distress." Finally, he states that the "most recent abuse" occurred on or

<sup>1</sup> In the "Original Petition," filed with the application for a temporary restraining order, Plaintiff names as Defendants what appear to be a number of television stations.

1 about June 25, 2006, and recounts facts relating to this alleged abuse, although these allegations  
2 are disjointed to the point of being incoherent and unintelligible.

3 Courts must deny *in forma pauperis* applications under certain circumstances, including  
4 when the underlying complaint sought to be filed is frivolous or when it fails to state a claim  
5 upon which relief may be granted. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). In contravention of Federal Rule of  
6 Civil Procedure 8(a), Plaintiff failed to file a pleading setting forth the grounds upon which this  
7 Court has subject matter jurisdiction over these claims. This Rule requires “a short and plain  
8 statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, . . . and a demand for  
9 judgment for the relief the pleader seeks.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). Instead, the document that the  
10 Court construes as Plaintiff’s complaint, entitled “Original Petition,” alleges, without factual  
11 support, that the Defendants violated the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Eighth Amendments to  
12 the United States Constitution. Further, as noted, although he has set forth certain factual  
13 allegations in his application for a temporary restraining order, those facts are disjointed and  
14 incoherent and do not make clear how Defendants violated the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and  
15 Eighth Amendments.

16 To obtain a temporary restraining order, Plaintiff, as the moving party, has the burden of  
17 demonstrating either a combination of probable success on the merits and the possibility of  
18 irreparable injury *or* that serious questions exist as to success on the merits and irreparable  
19 injury along with a sharp tipping of the balance of hardships in his favor. *Sammartano v. First*  
20 *Judicial District Court*, 303 F.3d 959, 965 (9th Cir. 2003). “Because injunctive relief prior to  
21 trial is a harsh and extraordinary remedy, it is to be granted sparingly and only in cases where  
22 the issues are clear and well defined and the plaintiff has established a reasonable certainty of  
23 prevailing at trial.” *Watermark, Inc. v. United Stations, Inc.*, 219 U.S.P.Q. 31, 32-33 (C.D. Cal.  
24 1982) (citing *Dymo Industries, Inc. v. Tapeprinter, Inc.*, 326 F.2d 141 (9th Cir. 1964)). On the  
25 record currently before the Court, it cannot find that Plaintiff has met his burden of showing  
26 either a probable success on the merits or the possibility of immediate irreparable injury.

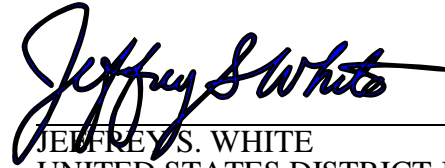
27 For these reasons, Plaintiff’s application for a temporary restraining order is DENIED.  
28 His application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE and the

1 Complaint is DISMISSED WITH LEAVE TO AMEND. If Plaintiff wishes to pursue this  
2 action, he must file an amended complaint that sets forth the basis of this Courts jurisdiction and  
3 which also sets forth a cognizable legal claim, as well as a renewed application to proceed *in*  
4 *forma pauperis* by **September 15, 2006**. Failure to file a cognizable legal claim by this date  
5 shall result in dismissal of this action with prejudice.

6 The Court advises Plaintiff that a Handbook for Pro Se Litigants, which contains helpful  
7 information about proceeding without an attorney, is available through the Court's website or in  
8 the Clerk's office.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10 Dated: September 1, 2006



JEFFREY S. WHITE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE